

Independent Readers Fluency Passages

*Passages for students that need additional reading practice with decodable text.
The text is in the regular orthography to help prepare for the DORF.*

Use after: *Lesson 70 RMSE 1*

Sit

This is a rock.

Sit on it.

This is a ram.

Sit on it.

This is a rat.

Sit on it.

This is me.

Sit on me.



Use after: *Lesson 100 RMSE K*

A Little Fish and His Mom

A little fish was in a lake with his mom.

The little fish said, "I can go near a rock."

And the little fish did that.

The mom fish said, "I can not see the little fish."

A mean fish said, "I can see that little fish."

The mean fish was near the rock.

The mean fish came near the little fish.

"Mom, mom," the little fish said.

The mean fish said, "I eat little fish."

The mom fish said, "I eat mean fish."

The mean fish said, "Not this mean fish."

And the mean fish hid in the weeds.



Use after: *Lesson 125 RMSE K*

The Goat That Rolled

Ann was a goat that rolled.

She went to the lake and rolled.

She got a wet coat and sand in both ears.

She went to the farm and rolled in the weeds.

She got a coat of weed seeds and weed seeds in both ears.

She went in the pen and rolled in the mud.

She got mud in both ears.

Then Ann went rolling on a tar road.

Ann got a coat of tar and tar in both ears.

Then Ann went home. Ann's mom said, "This goat is a mess."

Ann said, "I can not hear."

Ann's mom said, "I will peek in those ears."

Did Ann's mom see sand and mud and tar and weed seeds? She did.



Use after: *Lesson 140 RMSE K*

Pat and the Corn

Pat is a girl. She lives with her mom and dad on a farm.

The farm has a lot of corn on it. So Pat and her mom and dad eat a lot of corn.

Pat said, "I am sick of eating corn. I do not like to eat more corn."

Pat said, "I will get some food to eat. And it will not be corn."

Pat went walking. She went to a shop. Pat said, "I need some food to eat."

The man in the shop said, "We have coats, socks, and hats. But we do not have food."

So Pat went walking. She came to a lake. Pat said, "I will find some food to eat at this lake."

Pat went walking in the weeds near the lake. But she did not find some food to eat.

Pat sat on a rock and said, "I can not find food that I like. I will have to eat corn."

Then Pat slid on the rock. She fell into the lake and so did her hat.

Pat said, "I am wet and so is the hat. I will get the hat and go to the farm."

Pat got her hat and said, "I have some food to eat and it is not corn. A fish is in the hat."

Words in Passage: 223



Use after: *Lesson 160 RMSE K*

The Car

The old car sat in the car dump. It had a big dent in its back. It had a bent side. It had no paint. When the car started, it went ug-ug-ug-rrr. And when it ran, it went pop-pop-pop-pop.

The old car was sad. It said, "The man I lived with did not like the dent in my back. He did not like my bent side. He did not like my ug-ug-ug-rrr and my pop-pop-pop-pop. So the man took me to this dump. And now I have no pal. I do not like it in this dump. I need a pal to take me away from here. I need to run some more."

Then an old man walked by the dump. The car said, "Maybe that old man will take me from this dump."

The old man went to the car. He said, "That is an old car. I like old cars. I will see if this old car starts."

So the old man got in the car and started it.

The old man said, "This car runs, so I will take it home."

The old man got rid of the dent in the back of the car. He made the bent side look fine. Then the old man put yellow paint on the car.

Now the old car was not sad. The car said, "I do not have a bent side. I do not have a dent in my back. I have yellow paint. And I have a pal to take care of me."

Now the old man takes his yellow car down roads and streets. The old man likes his old car, and the car likes the old man.

Words in Passage: 283



Use after: *Lesson 70 RMSE K*

In The Sun

A man had a ram. That ram sat in the sun. A rat sat in the sun. The ram and the rat had fun.



Use after: *Lesson 100 RMSE K*

The Cat Made a Hat

The cat made a hat. A cat had lots of hats. She said, "I see a cow. The cow has no hat."

The cow said, "It is cold. I need a hat."

So the cat gave the cow a hat.

The cat said, "I see a man. The man has no hat."

The man said, "It is cold. I need a hat."

So the cat gave the man a hat.

The cat said, "I see an ant. The ant has no hat."

The ant said, "It is cold. I need a hat."

So the cat gave the ant a hat.

The cat said, "I have no more hats. I gave the hats to the cow and the man and the ant. I need a hat so I will not get cold."

So the cat got an old sack and made a hat.



Use after: *Lesson 125 RMSE K*

Cold

A duck was cold.

The duck said, "I need a coat."

The duck met a dog. She said, "Can you give me a coat?"

The dog said, "No, I have no coat to give. I wish I did."

So the duck got an old mop. She said, "I can make a coat with this old mop."

Then she made a big coat.

A pig was cold. He met the duck. The pig said, "Can you give me a coat?"

The duck said, "Here is my duck coat."

The pig said, "I like that coat. But I need a pig coat, not a duck coat."

The pig got an old rug and made a little red coat.

Now the pig has a coat. And he is not cold.

And the duck has a coat. And she is not cold.



Use after: *Lesson 140 RMSE K*

Meg and the Nut Loaf

Meg was little and old. Meg had a wig. Meg had a big hat. And Meg had a tan deer.

Meg and the deer made a nut loaf with nuts on top. The loaf was a wish loaf.

The loaf had seeds in it. The loaf had figs in it. And the loaf had five nuts in it and five on top.

Meg said to the deer, "I made a wish loaf. Now I will make a wish. Then you and I will eat the loaf."

She said, "I will not wish for a fan. I have a fan. I will not wish for a rake. I have a rake. I will not wish for a deer. I have a deer."

Meg and the deer sat and sat. Meg did not make a wish. She said, "I have not made a wish, so we can not eat the loaf. I wish I did not have to make a wish."

Then Meg said, "Now I have made a wish, so let's eat the loaf."

So Meg and her deer ate the nut loaf.



Use after: *Lesson 160 RMSE K*

The Hill of Hair

Bill was a man. Bill did not like to have his hair cut. His hair hid his neck. His hair hid his arms. His hair even hid his legs.

Bill went on a bus. He said to the man on the bus, "Stop at a farm."

The man on the bus said, "Is this a man or a hill of hair?"

Bill went to a farm. He said to the man on the farm, "I need ten eggs."

The man on the farm said, "Is this a man or a hill of hair?"

Bill got the eggs and left the farm. He met a cop. Bill said, "How do I get to the pet shop?"

The cop said, "Is this a man or a hill of hair?"

So Bill went to the pet shop. The man in the pet shop said, "This looks like a pet. I will sell it."

Bill said, "Let me go. I am not a pet. I am a man."

But the man in the pet shop did not let him go. The man in the pet shop said, "I will see if this is a pet or a man."

So he cut Bill's hair. He cut and cut and cut.

He said, "Now I can see legs."

He cut and cut. Then he said, "Now I can see arms."

He cut and cut. "Now I can see ears," he said.

Then he said, "Now I see that this is not a pet. This is a man."

So Bill went home. He said, "I like this hair cut. Now I am not a hill of hair. I am a man with no hair."

Words in Passage: 281



Use after: *Lesson 10 RMSE 1*

The Big Gold Ring

Jill did not take care of her things. She did not keep her coat on a rack. She left her coat on the rug in her room. Jill did not take care of her socks. She left them on the rug in her bed room. Jill did not take care of her toys. She left them on the rug in her bed room.

On a sunny day her big sister said, "I can not see the rug in this room. I can see coats and socks and toys. But I cannot see the rug. I can not even see the bed. This room is a mess."

Jill said, "I do not like to take care of my things."

Her big sister said, "You must take care of your things. Look at my room. My room is neat. But your room is a mess. And if you do not clean up your room, I am going to tell mother."

Jill did not like to clean up her room, but she picked up coats and more coats. She picked up socks and more socks. She picked up toys and more toys. She picked up locks and books and food and cups and bugs and hats and dolls and rabbits.

Then she said, "I can see the rug in this room. I have not seen that rug for some time."

Jill looked at some thing on the rug. It was a ring, a big gold ring. "That is the ring my big sister lost," Jill said.

So Jill went to her sister's room. Jill said, "You do not take care of your things."

Her sister got mad. "Yes, I do take care of my things. Look at this neat room."

Jill said, "Show me your big gold ring."

Her sister said, "I do not have my big gold ring. It is lost."

Jill held up the ring. "You left this ring in my room. So you do not take care of your things."

The Big Gold Ring (Continued)

Jill's sister gave Jill a big hug. Then her sister said, "For finding my ring, I will do some thing for you."

Jill said, "Do not tell me that my room is a mess. I like to have a mess in my room."

Jill's sister said, "I do not care if you have a mess in your room."

So Jill had a mess in her room. Her sister said, "I can not see the rug in that room. I can not see the bed in that room. But I do not care. I have my big gold ring."

Words in Passage: 43 2



Use after: *Lesson 40 RMSE 1*

The Boy Who Yelled “Wolf”

Roy took care of his sheep. Each day he went to the field with the sheep. Each day his dad said, “Look out for the wolf. Do not let him eat the sheep. If the wolf comes, you yell for help.”

Each day Roy looked for the wolf. The sheep ate grass, and Roy sat. He sat and sat and sat. He looked and looked and looked. But no wolf came. Day after day he sat and looked and sat and looked.

One day Roy said, “This is no fun. Each day I sit and look, sit and look. It is not fun to sit and look. I want to have some fun.”

Then he said, “There is a way to have fun. I will run into the town and tell every one that the wolf is eating the sheep. They will run out here to get the wolf. That will be fun.”

So that’s what Roy did. He ran into town. “Wolf! Wolf!” he yelled. “The wolf is eating the sheep.”

Every one said, “Let’s get that wolf.” They got guns and clubs. Then they ran back to the field with Roy.

When they got back to the field, Roy said. “Ha ha. I fooled you. There is no wolf. I was just having fun.”

Every one was mad at Roy. Roy’s dad said, “That is no way to have fun. Some day you will yell ‘Wolf, wolf’ and we will not come. We will think that you are just having fun.”

The next day was very hot. Roy sat and looked for the wolf. “This is no fun,” he said. “I want to have some more fun.” So Roy ran into town. “Wolf! Wolf!” he yelled. “The wolf is eating the sheep.”

Every one said, “Let’s get that wolf.” They got guns and clubs. Then they ran back to the field with Roy.

When they got to the field. Roy said, “Ha ha. I fooled you. There is no wolf. I was just having fun.”



The Boy Who Yelled "Wolf" (Continued)

Roy's dad was very, very mad. He said, "Roy, that is no way to have fun. Some day you will yell 'Wolf' and we will not come. We will think that you are just having fun."

The next day Roy was sitting in the grass looking at the sheep. Just then a big wolf came running at the sheep. The sheep started to run. The wolf was going to eat the sheep.

Roy ran to town. "Help! Help!" he yelled. "A wolf is eating the sheep! Help! Get your guns and clubs! Help!"

But no one went to get guns and clubs. One man said, "That Roy is having fun. But he will not fool us this time."

Roy said, "I am not fooling. I am not having fun. The wolf is eating the sheep."

But every one said, "You will not fool us this time." And no one went to help the sheep.

The wolf ate three sheep. Roy was very sad. His dad was very sad. Every one was very sad. Roy's dad said, "Now you can see why it is bad to fool every one."

That was the last time Roy said, "It is no fun to sit out here with the sheep." That was the last time he wanted to fool every one. And that was the last time that the wolf got Roy's sheep. Roy became the best lookout there was. He did his job well. And he liked his job. And every one in town said, "Roy is very good at looking after his sheep."

Words in Passage: 609



Use after: *Lesson 70 RMSE 1*

The Bad Wind and The 3 Clouds

A mother cloud and father cloud said, "We will go out with our little cloud."

And they did. The 3 clouds went over hills and over lakes. Every now and then the mother cloud told the little cloud, "Look at this," or "look at that."

The 3 clouds did not plan to go far, but a bad wind looked at them and said, "I will blow those clouds far away."

The bad wind came at the 3 clouds like a shot.

"Ho, ho," the wind said, "I will see how far they go when I do my best blow."

Again, the wind came at the clouds and made the 3 clouds fly this way and that way.

"Help, help," the little cloud yelled. "I am going far from my mom and dad."

The mom and dad said, "We must stop that bad wind."

The two clouds let out a loud sound of thunder. That scared the wind, but the wind did not stop. Then the two clouds let out big sheets of rain. The wind still did not leave.

The little cloud said, "I will help. I will make thunder, and I will make rain."

The little cloud made a little thunder and a little rain.

Then all 3 clouds made thunder and made rain at the same time.

Boom went the thunder. Down came the rain. The bad wind was wet.

The wind stopped and said, "This thunder is too loud for me and I hate to get wet." So the wind left.

Now the little cloud is back with his mom and dad. The 3 clouds are happy again.

Words in Passage: 278



Use after: *Lesson 100 RMSE 1*

Bill Makes a Mountain

A boy named Bill liked to make things. One day he had a bar of soap. He said, "I will make something out of this soap."

The boys and girls said, "What will you make with that soap?"

Bill said, "You will see soon." Bill went into his work shop. Soon he came out of the work shop. He was holding something.

"That is a little ship," the boys and girls said.

Bill had made a little ship out of the soap. His little soap ship looked just like a big ship.

The boys and girls said, "Bill is good at making things."

One day Bill got some wood. He said, "I will make something out of this wood."

The boys and girls said, "What will you make out of that wood?"

Bill said, "You will see soon." Bill went into his shop. Soon he came out with something.

"That is a sail boat," the boys and girls said.

Bill had made a sail boat out of the wood. He made a good sail boat. The boys and girls sailed in the sail boat. They sailed on the pond from shore to shore. The boys and girls said, "Bill is good at making things."

One day Bill got some steel. He said, "I will make something out of this steel."

The boys and girls said, "What will you make out of that steel?"

Bill said, "You will see soon." Bill went into his shop. Soon he came out with something.

"That is a stove," the boys and girls said.

Bill had made a stove out of the steel. He made a good stove. The boys and girls made hot dogs on the stove. They had a good time. They ate the hot dogs and said, "Bill is very good at making things."

Bill Makes a Mountain (Continued)

Bill had made a stove out of the steel. He made a good stove. The boys and girls made hot dogs on the stove. They had a good time. They ate the hot dogs and said, "Bill is very good at making things."

Then one day Bill said, "I will make something really good." Bill did not go into his shop. He got sand and more sand. He got rocks and more rocks. He got mud and more mud.

Every day the boys and girls said, "What are you making?" But Bill did not tell them.

"That pile of rocks is as big as a hill," the boys and girls said. But Bill made the pile bigger and bigger.

The boys and girls said, "That pile of rocks is bigger than the town." But Bill made the pile bigger and bigger.

Then one day, a girl said, "I see that Bill is making a mountain."

The boys and girls ran up to Bill. "Are you making a mountain?" they asked.

Bill said, "I am making snow."

The boys and girls looked at Bill. One boy said, "Bill, it is summer time. You are not making snow."

Bill said, "Yes, I am making snow."

A girl said, "This is not snow. This is a mountain."

Bill said, "I am making snow. Go to the top of the mountain and you will see."

The boys and girls said, "Ha ha. Bill made a mountain and he thinks he made snow."

So the boys and girls went up the mountain. It was summer time at the bottom of the mountain, but as they went up the mountain they got colder and colder.



Bill Makes a Mountain (Continued)

They went up and up and up. They went into the clouds. Then they were above the clouds. And what do you think? They looked and saw snow. They saw big piles of snow. "Wow," one boy said, "Look at the snow."

A girl said, "Let's make a snow man." So the boys and girls made a snow man.

They had a good time in the snow. They ran and jumped and made ten snow men and many snow balls.

Then one boy said, "Bill you are smart. You can make anything." And the other boys and girls said, "Yes, Bill can make anything. He can even make snow."

The boys and girls went up the mountain day after day. They played with the snow balls. Then they came down and went swimming. They all said that the mountain was the best thing that Bill ever made.

Words in Passage: 679

Use after: *Lesson 125 RMSE 1*

The Hidden Door

Tom moved to a new town. But the house that he and his family moved into was not new. It was very, very old. Tom did not like the new town and he did not like the old house.

"Why can't we have a new house?" he asked his mom.

"This house is fine," she said.

Tom asked his dad, "Why do you like this big old house?"

His dad said, "Because it is big. It has lots of room for you and your brother and your sister."

Tom's dad was right. The house did have a lot of room. It had big rooms on the first floor. It had rooms on the middle floor, and it even had two small rooms on the third floor. One of these rooms on the third floor was Tom's. The room had a window. From that window Tom could see over other houses.

A big tree grew near Tom's window. Tom said that he would climb out of the window and climb down the tree. "No, you will not," his mother said. "You are not to climb down that tree."

One day Tom was sitting in his room. He was thinking about the house that his family had before they moved to the new town. And he was thinking about the friends that he had before they moved.

Tom's sister came into the room. "I wish we were back in the old town," she said.

"Me too," Tom said. Tom and his sister did not say anything for a long time. They were both thinking about the old town. Then his sister said, "Tom, let's do something."

Tom said, "What can we do? There is nothing to do around here." Then he said, "Do you want to climb down the tree?"

"No, no," his sister said. "We can't do that."



The Hidden Door (Continued)

Tom said, "Let's look around this old house. Maybe we can find something that nobody knows about."

"O.K.," his sister said. "Where do we start looking?"

"In this room," Tom said. "Maybe there is a hidden door in this room."

"Tom, that's silly," his sister said. "Hidden doors are just in stories."

"No," Tom said. "There are hidden doors. I read about them in school. People used to have hidden doors so they could get away from soldiers if they came to the house. A lot of old houses have hidden doors."

"Tom, you're just making it up," his sister said.

Tom didn't say anything. He started to tap on the walls. He tapped on one wall and then on another. Ta, ta, ta, ta.

"What are you doing?" his sister asked.

"I'm testing the walls for a hidden door." He tapped the walls again. Ta, ta, ta, ta.

"What is the tapping going to tell you?" his sister asked.

Tom said, "You can hear where the hidden door is." Tom tapped again. He went into his closet and started tapping. Ta, ta, TU, TU. He tapped again. TU, TU.

"Sis," he said, "I think I have found a hidden door."

Tom was right. It was a hidden door.

Tom looked for some way to open it. There was no door handle. So Tom felt around for something that would open the door. He saw a funny hook on the wall. He pulled on the hook, and ... a door opened, a hidden door in the closet.

"I'm scared," his sister said.

"Don't be scared," Tom said. Tom was scared, too. But he said, "Follow me."



The Hidden Door (Continued)

Behind the hidden door were stairs that went down. It was dark. Tom went back to his room and got a flashlight. Then he and his sister started down the stairs. Creak, creak, the stairs went as the children stepped on them. Creak.

At the bottom of the stairs were two doors, one on each side of the hall. Which door should we take?" Tom asked.

"That one," his sister said, looking at the door on the left.

Tom pulled on the funny hook next to the door and it opened. On the other side of the door was the dining room. Tom and his sister walked into the dining room. Then they closed the door. Just as it closed, Tom's mother came into the dining room. "I didn't know you were down here," she said.

Tom smiled. "We were upstairs, but we're down here now."

His mother frowned. "Tom," she said, "did you climb down that tree?"

"No, I didn't. We have a secret way of getting down here. Don't make us tell you how. It's a secret."

Tom's mother looked at Tom and his sister. Then she said, "You can have your secret."

Tom and his sister had the best secret anyone ever had. They had a secret door. In fact they had three secret doors. One door in the dining room, one door in Tom's room, and one door in an old shed behind the house. You could go from the shed to the dining room or to Tom's room.

Tom and his sister had a lot of fun with the secret doors. Tom once bet a friend that he could get out of his room with the door and the window locked. Tom won the bet.



The Hidden Door (Continued)

Tom and his sister did not think about the old town or the old friends. They had a good time in the new town with new friends. They liked the town, they liked the friends, but best of all they liked the house.

Words in Passage: 927



Use after: *Lesson 10 RMSE 1*

The Pet Home

Tom had a pet kitten. His dad said, "If you keep that kitten, you have to make a home for him."

So Tom said, "Yes, dad, I will make a home for my pet kitten." Tom got some wood and some nails. He went into the yard and said, "Now I will make a home for my kitten."

Soon Tom looked at his home. He said, "This home is getting too big for a kitten. This looks more like a home for a cat. I will need more wood and more nails to fix it up."

So Tom got more wood and more nails. Soon Tom looked at the home for a cat. He said, "This home is getting too big for a cat. This looks like a home for a dog."

Tom went to his dad. Tom said, "I am making a home for a dog. I need more wood and more nails."

Tom's dad gave him more wood and more nails. Tom went back to fix up his home for a dog.

But soon the home was too big for a dog. Tom went to his dad and said, "I need more wood and nails."

His dad said, "That home is getting too big."

Tom said, "Yes, it is too big for a dog, but it is just fine for a horse."

So Tom got the wood and nails and went back to fix up his horse home.

But soon the home was too big for horses. It was too big for cows. But Tom fixed it up.

Boys and girls came to see the big pet home. They said, "You can not find a pet for such a big home."

But Tom said, "Yes, I can. This home is just fine for my big pet."

The Pet Home (Continued)

The boys and girls said, "Do you have a pet in that big home?"

Tom said, "Yes I do."

Then he said, "Come here, Al."

And the boys and girls said, "Now we see that this is a home for elephants."

Words in Passage: 346



Use after: *Lesson 40 RMSE 1*

Fred and the Pig

Fred was a very smart fox. Every body came to him for help. Fred sat in the shade near the side of the river. He sat and read books.

One day Fred was sitting by the side of the river reading a book. A pig came up to him. The pig said, "I want to get to the other side of the river."

Fred asked, "Can you swim?"

The pig said, "I can swim, but that is too far for me."

Fred said, "If you can not swim to the other side of the river, you can make a boat."

The pig said, "The boats that I make do not float. They sink."

Fred said, "I will get you to the other side of the river if you pay me one dollar."

The pig said, "I will give you a dollar."

So Fred got a long board. He set the board down near the side of the river. He told the pig to stand on the end of the board. The other end of the board was over the water.

Fred said to the pig, "You just keep standing there and you will be on the other side of the river very soon."

Fred ran up the hill and jumped. He came down on the end of the board that was over the water. That end of the board went down.

The end of the board with the pig on it went up. And the pig went into the air. He went over the river to the other side.

But he did not come down on the bank of the river. He came down in the top of a great tree. The pig yelled to Fred, "I can not get down from here."

Fred said, "I will get you down from that tree if you pay me one dollar."



Fred and the Pig (Continued)

The pig said, "Why do I have to pay you another dollar?"

Fred said, "You gave me a dollar to get you to the other side of the river. You are on the other side of the river. If you want to get down from that tree, you will have to pay me another dollar."

The pig said, "I will pay you another dollar. Get me down from here."

Fred went to the home of a big beaver. He said to the beaver, "You are not the best wood cutter in the woods. I met a little beaver who can cut wood better than you."

The big beaver said, "I am the best wood cutter in the woods. I can cut better than any other beaver."

Fred said, "I can find a tree that is too big for you to cut down."

The beaver said, "I can cut down any tree in the woods."

Fred said, "Come with me. I will show you a tree you can not cut down."

Fred showed the big beaver the tree with the pig in it. Fred said, "There is a tree you can not cut down."

The beaver went across the river. He started cutting down the tree with his teeth. He cut and cut. Soon he had cut so much wood that the tree started to fall over. The pig yelled, "Help. I am falling."

The tree fell, but it fell back across the river. The pig landed near the board that was on the bank.

The pig yelled at Fred, "I do not want to be on this side of the river. I want to be on the other side of the river."

Fred said, "You gave me a dollar to get you down from the tree. I got you down from the tree."

The pig said, "But I do not want to be on this side of the river. I want to be on the other side of the river."

Fred said, "Pay me another dollar and I will get you across the river."



Fred and the Pig (Continued)

"No," the pig said. "I do not want to fly in the air. And I do not want to land in the top of a tree."

Fred said, "I will get you across the river. And you will not fly in the air. But you have to pay me one more dollar."

The pig said, "I will pay you another dollar."

Fred said, "You can walk across the river on the tree." The tree had gone across the river. The pig walked on the tree and went from one side of the river to the other side of the river.

The tree is still across the river and Fred sits near the tree. He sits and reads. And if some body wants to go to the other side of the river, Fred says, "Pay me one dollar and you can walk across the river on my tree."

Words in Passage: 814

Use after: *Lesson 75 RMSE 1*

The Jumping Box

The mail man said to Jimmy, "Look here. I have a box for you. It has your name on it."

Jimmy saw the box. He said, "What is in the box?"

The mail man said, "Open the box and see."

Jimmy took the box and started to open it. Just then the box jumped out of his hands. The box jumped down the steps.

Jimmy said, "What kind of a box is this?" He chased the box, but it jumped and jumped. The box jumped down the hill.

All the children stopped playing and started to chase the box down the hill. The boys and girls ran, but the box jumped faster and faster.

Then, all at once, the box stopped jumping. The children grabbed the box. They put it on the grass. They took off the top. And what do you think they saw in the box? A kangaroo.

The kangaroo said, "Hello, Jimmy. I am Loo, your pet kangaroo. Jump in my pouch and I will take you for a ride."

So Jimmy jumped in the kangaroo's pouch and Loo took him for a ride. Hop, hop, hop down the street. Then Jimmy let all the children have a ride.

Jimmy thinks that Loo is the best pet a boy or girl can have. Some boys and girls ride to school on bikes. Some boys and girls go to school in a bus. Some boys and girls walk to school. But Jimmy rides in the pouch of his pet kangaroo.

Words in Passage: 255



Use after: *Lesson 100 RMSE 1*

The Goat Who Ate the Radio

Shush was a goat. Goats like to eat things. They eat paper. They eat grass. They eat weeds. Shush liked to eat things. He liked to eat paper. He liked to eat grass. He liked to eat weeds.

Goats like to say things when they eat. They say, "Nnnaaaa, naaaa." Shush wanted to say things when he ate, but he did not make a sound. He did not say "Nnnaaaa." He did not say "Na." He did not even say "N" or "A."

Poor Shush. When the other goats met, they looked at each other. Then they started saying, "Nnnaaaa, naaaa," but he did not make a sound.

Shush used to say to himself, "I wish I made sounds. I wish I made all kinds of sounds." But he did not make even one sound.

His mother used to wish, "I wish Shush made sounds." His father used to wish, "I wish Shush made sounds." Everybody wished and wished, but the wishing did no good. Shush still did not make one little sound.

Then one day Shush was eating. He ate a little box. He ate some grass. He ate some weeds. Then he saw another little box. He did not know that this little box was a radio. He ate that radio. Down it went.

Shush heard another goat walking near him. Shush moved his head to the side. When he did that, the radio started, "It looks like a home run. A home run."

The other goat smiled at Shush and said, "Naaaa."

The radio in Shush said, "The fans are cheering. Yeeeeeeaaa."

The other goat smiled again. The other goat like the sounds that Shush made. Shush liked these sounds too. But he didn't know what was making them.



The Goat Who Ate the Radio (Continued)

Shush move his head and the radio stopped. He walked up the hill. He met another goat. The other goat said, "Nnaaaa." Shush tried to make the sound, but no sounds came from him. The other goat did not look happy. He said, "Nnnaaaaaa. Naaaaa." But Shush did not make a sound. The other goat looked mad now. "Nnnaaa," he said.

Shush tried to make a sound. He tried so hard that he shook his head. When he did that, the radio started to play. Somebody was singing, "You're my baby, and I'm your baby too."

The other goat smiled. Shush smiled. He shook his head, and the radio stopped.

Shush still did not know what he had to do to make the radio start playing. He walked over the hill. There was his father.

"Nnnnnnnnaa," his father said.

A fly started to bite Shush on his head. Shush shook his head at the fly. When he shook his head, the radio started. "The very best tooth paste you can buy. Shine-O!"

Shush looked at his father. His father smiled. "Nnnnnnnnaaa," his father said.

Shush shook his head very fast. "Lunch meat," the radio said.

His father smiled and licked Shush on the nose. Shush was very happy. His father hadn't licked him on the nose since Shush had been just a little baby goat.

Shush walked down to the barn. He saw his mother and his little sister. Now Shush knew how to make the radio work. He knew that it worked if he shook his head.

"Nnnaaaa," his mother said.

Shush moved his head. "Let's ride these horses down to the stream and do some fishing," the radio said.



The Goat Who Ate the Radio (Continued)

Shush shook his head. His mother was smiling, "Na, na, na, na, naaaaa," she said. She walked over and licked Shush on the nose.

Shush shook his head, "Cream," the radio said.

He shook his head again very fast. "The sports," the radio said.

His mother licked him on the nose again. She really liked the sounds that he made. So did Shush.

Now Shush has a lot of fun. He eats with the other goats. They go "Nnnaaa, naaaa" when they eat. When Shush eats, he shakes his head from time to time. And he makes all kinds of sounds. He may make the sound of waves on the beach. Or he may say something like this, "My name is Linda, and I want to tell you how I lost ten pounds in one week."

The other goats like the sounds that Shush makes. And so does Shush.

Words in Passage: 730



Use after: *Lesson 125 RMSE 1*

Steg and the Monster

Steg was an animal that lived long, long ago. Steg did not look like any of the animals that live now. He did not have hair on his back. He had skin like a snake. Steg did not go moo like a cow or baaa like a sheep. Steg did not make any sounds at all.

All day long, Steg ate. He ate grass. He ate plants. He liked to eat. The other thing that he liked to do was look at things that were pretty. He looked at the pretty lake. He looked at the pretty birds. He looked at the pretty trees. But he did not like to look at things that were not pretty.

That is why he did not like to look at his tail. He had a long, long tail. And at the end of his tail he had spikes—great big spikes. Every time he looked at the spikes he said, “Why do I have them? They look funny. And they are not good for anything. Birds do not like to sit on them. I do not like to look at them. I wish I did not have those spikes.”

But the spikes did not go away. In fact, they started to get bigger. When Steg had been a baby, they were little spikes. Now they were getting very big.

One day Steg was walking down to the lake. He was going to eat some grass and look at the pretty lake. He was thinking, “Maybe I will see some pretty flowers or some pretty bugs.” When Steg walked, he did not look back. He never looked back, because he did not like to see his tail.

Steg lived when there were a lot of other animals that are no longer around. One of them was a real monster. He was as big as an elephant, and he had teeth as big as the spikes on Steg’s tail. He liked to eat animals like Steg. He liked to come up behind them and—ung.



Steg and the Monster (Continued)

The monster was waiting for Steg. He was hiding behind a hill next to the lake. He saw Steg coming. The monster said to himself, "I will sneak up behind him and—ung. I will have a good meal."

Steg went by the hill, not turning his head. He was looking at the pretty butterfly. He was thinking, "Why can't I be pretty like that? Why do I have those big spikes on my tail?"

After Steg went by the hill, the monster came out. He started to come up behind Steg—closer, closer, closer. His mouth was open. His big teeth were ready to go—ung.

Steg sniffed the air. He said, "I smell the monster. He is near." Steg looked around. He saw the great mouth with those great teeth.

Then Steg did something without thinking. When you are scared, you jump. You don't think about jumping. You just jump. That happened to Steg. He gave his tail a great swing. He did not think about doing that. He just did it. The spikes hit the monster. The monster fell down. And Steg ran home.

He did not stop. He just ran. And when he got home, he looked at his tail. He looked at those great spikes. Then he said, "Now I see why I have those spikes." He looked at them some more. "And they do not look so bad," Steg said. "They look a lot better than the monster."

A lot of the other animals heard the story of Steg and the monster. The next day they all came around to look at Steg.

Some of the other animals had spikes on their tails. But nobody had spikes as big as Steg's. All the animals said, "Wow! Look at those pretty spikes. They are the best-looking spikes I have ever seen."

And from that day on, Steg did not mind looking behind him. In fact, he liked to look behind him. Because when he looked back, he saw his spikes. They were the best-looking spikes anybody ever had.

Words in Passage: 687



Use after: *Lesson 125 RMSE 1*

The King of Beasts and the Goat

A lion was in the hills hunting for mountain goats. The goats were afraid. So they called a large meeting. Some goats said, "We must leave the hills, or the lion will eat all of us."

Other goats did not like this plan. They said, "Where will we go? We are goats that live in the hills and mountains. This is our home."

"Then we must fight the lion," one goat said. "But how will we do that? We are only goats, and the lion is the king of beasts."

Another goat said, "We can go to parts of the mountain where no lion could go."

"That is true," another goat agreed, "but not all of us are able to do that. We have some baby goats that could not climb the steep parts of a mountain."

At last a wise old goat told the others, "You say that a goat is a goat and a lion is a lion. But does a lion know that a goat is only a goat?"

The other goats said, "What do you mean? You are not being clear."

The wise old goat said, "A lion knows that a goat is a goat when a goat acts like a goat."

The others asked, "What do you mean?"

"I will show you tomorrow," the wise old goat said. "I will make the lion think I am not a goat."

The next day, when the sun came up, the lion started hunting for goats. He went up a path and came to a large cave. And who was lying down, right in front of the cave? The wise old goat. He looked up at the lion and smiled. "You have come at last," the goat said. "I have been waiting and waiting, and now you are here."

The King of Beasts and the Goat (Continued)

"Why have you been waiting for me?" the lion asked.

The goat said, "Inside my cave I have the bones of 100 tigers and 100 elephants and 100 bears. But I have not yet eaten one lion."

The lion did not know what to say. He said to himself, "This beast looks like a goat, but he does not talk like a goat."

The goat went on to say, "I am so tired of eating tigers and elephants and bears that I am glad to see you. You are big, and you look good to eat." Then the goat stood up and said, "Please step inside my cave and look at the bones of the other beasts I have eaten."

The lion did not go near that cave. He said to himself, "Why is he asking me to go inside his cave? It must be a trap."

The goat said, "If you do not wish to go inside my cave, just come a little closer to me. Come over here. You have nothing to fear."

The lion said to himself, "Why does this beast want me to come closer?" He looked at the large horns on the goat and said, "No, I will just stand here. In fact, I think I will leave."

"No, please," the goat said. "Don't leave. Come closer. Or stand still, and I will walk closer to you."

"No," the lion said, and backed up.

"If you must go now," the goat said, "please come back tomorrow. I would like you to see the inside of my cave."

"No," the lion said. "I don't think I will be here tomorrow."

The goat said, "But you will stay in the hills, won't you? I would like to see you again."

"No," the lion said. "I am leaving the hills right now."

After he left, the other goats came out and told the wise old goat, "You were great. You scared that lion away."

One goat said, "That lion got scared when you told him that you had all those bones in the cave. But where did you get the bones?"



The King of Beasts and the Goat (Continued)

"See for yourself," the old goat said.

The other goat went inside the cave and said, "There are no bones in this cave."

The wise old goat said, "You see a cave with no bones, but that is not what the lion saw." And the wise old goat was right.

Today, mountain goats still tell the story of the wise old goat who tricked the lion. And lions tell the story of the strange-looking beast who lives in the hills and has a cave full of bones.

Words in Passage: 748



Use after: *Lesson 135 RMSE 1*

The Ant and the Grasshopper

There once was an ant and a grasshopper who lived in the same field. It was summer time, and the field was filled with good things to eat. There were seeds and weeds and leaves and berries. There were cherries and nuts and grass and honey.

And there were things to see and games to play. The grasshopper got up every morning with happy thoughts about playing games and having fun. That's just how he spent his day - playing and having fun. The ant did not do those things. The ant was a hard worker. She collected seeds and nuts and grass and honey.

The grasshopper saw her carrying some seeds back to her anthill. "Why don't you play with me?" the grasshopper said.

"No, I have to work. Maybe when I'm done with my work today, we can play."

"Why wait until then?" the grasshopper asked. "If we start playing now, we can play all day."

"No," the ant insisted. "I have to collect food."

"But why do you have to do that?" the grasshopper asked.

The ant said, "Winter is coming, and we must have enough food to live through the winter."

"Winter?" the grasshopper shouted. "That's a long way away. We'll have plenty of time to get ready for winter when we are tired of playing."

"No," the ant said, and went about the task of collecting food.

So the summer went by the same way. The ant worked and collected food, while the grasshopper played and had a wonderful time.

The Ant and the Grasshopper (Continued)

Then one day, summer was over, and winter was very near. The grasshopper felt a sudden fear of what was to come. He started to look for good things to put in his den. But all the good weeds and seeds and cherries and nuts were gone. All that was left were dried-up leaves and dried-up grass.

Winter came and the grasshopper had no food. He was near death when he went to the home of the ant. "Oh, ant," he pleaded, "please help me. I have been thoughtless and stupid for not listening to your warnings, and never again will I fail to think ahead. Please share some of your food with me."

The ant said, "I will help you out this time, but you must remember the lesson you have learned. The one who plays all day long has no time to prepare for tomorrow."

"I will remember that lesson," the grasshopper said, and he did.

Next year, both the grasshopper and the ant prepared for winter, but they found enough time to spend part of each day playing and enjoying the summer.

Words in Passage: 445



Use after: *Lesson 145 RMSE 1*

The Cat and the Bell

A long time ago, there were many mice who lived in the king's palace. The king grew angry at the sight of mice in the hallways and even in his bedroom. So he gave a guard an order: "Find the best cat in the land, and bring it to me."

A call went out for the best cat, and after a few days, the guard returned with a large black cat named Lester. The king patted Lester and said, "Go into the palace and get rid of mice."

Lester did that. Before the sun had set, Lester had caught twenty mice.

That evening, the mice that were in the palace had a large meeting. The oldest and wisest mouse told the others, "We are here to find a plan that will keep the king's cat from getting rid of all of us. We need good ideas."

The first idea came from a mouse that lived on the third floor of the palace. She said, "Well, we could make a fire that would burn the palace down. The cat would have to leave."

Another mouse said, "Yes, but we would have to leave as well. There would be no palace left."

The next idea came from a mouse that lived in the kitchen. He said, "We could get a cat that is bigger and meaner than Lester and let it beat up Lester and scare him away."

A lot of the other mice liked this idea. They clapped and smiled. A mouse that lived in the queen's bedroom said, "But if the bigger, meaner cat chases Lester away, that cat will stay here. And how will we be safe from that cat?"

The other mice stopped smiling and said, "Yes, that's a good point."



The Cat and the Bell (Continued)

At last a mouse that lived in the palace ballroom said, "I have a plan that makes more sense. We can get a bell and some ribbon. We'll attach the bell to the ribbon and then put the ribbon around Lester's neck.

When Lester comes near, we will hear him, and we'll be able to run for safety."

Oh, how the other mice liked that idea. They smiled very broadly and clapped very politely. "That's a wonderful idea," some of them said.

Finally, the wise old mouse said, "Your plan sounds fine, except for one problem. Who will place the bell around Lester's neck?" The old mouse turned to the mouse that came up with this idea and asked, "Will you place the bell?"

"No, not me," that mouse said. And all the other mice shook their heads to show that they would not do it either.

The old mouse said, "It is easy to make up plans that are impossible, and I believe that this plan is impossible."

A small voice said, "I think we may be able to do it." All the mice turned around to stare at the little mouse that lived high in the tower. He said, "Attach the bell to the ribbon and bring it up to the tower. I will see to it that the cat is belled."

That night, the little mouse stood inside a large mouse hole in the wall. He was singing loudly. Lester heard him and came running.

Lester stuck his head inside the mouse hole and tried to bite the singing mouse. Oh, how that cat stretched its neck out. The cat didn't notice that there was a ribbon around the mouse hole and that when he stretched, the ribbon fell around his neck.



The Cat and the Bell (Continued)

When Lester felt the ribbon, he pulled his head back through the mouse hole, and he shook his head as hard as he could. But as he shook his head, he made a loud ding, ding sound. There was a bell around his neck.

Lester still has that bell around his neck. From time to time he catches a mouse that is not paying attention, but most of the mice are safe. They can always tell when Lester is coming. And the wise old mouse told all the others, "I didn't think this could be done because I didn't know how to do it. But our friend that lives in the tower proved that he is wiser than I am."

Words in Passage: 713

